

BREAKING THE SILENCE

A publication of The Children's Assessment Center, a safe place serving Harris County's sexually abused children.

The mission of The Children's Assessment Center is to provide a professional, compassionate and coordinated approach to the treatment of sexually abused children and their families and to serve as an advocate for all children in our community.

Best Charity of 2007

The Children's Assessment Center Foundation

*Houston Press names The Children's Assessment
Center Foundation as Best Charity of 2007!*

In the September 27-October 2, 2007 edition titled, "Best of Houston 2007," Houston Press named The Children's Assessment Center Foundation as the Best Charity of 2007. Each year the Houston Press uncovers the best Goods and Services, City Life, Arts and Entertainment, Sports and Recreations and Restaurants.

Support from the Foundation has allowed The CAC to win state and national awards for its mission to help heal the most tragic of victims. Charity Navigator has bestowed its highest (four-star) rating on The Children's Assessment Center Foundation, stating that 89.2 percent of the funds go toward program expenses, with 10.7 percent for administrative and fundraising costs combined.



The CAC Foundation Board of Directors are recognized for their support and dedication.

Back to School, Back to Safety Press Conference

The Children's Assessment Center held a press conference at The CAC announcing a month long, "Back to School, Back to Safety" Initiative with partner agency, Crime Stoppers of Houston. Honored guests included Senator John Cornyn and Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas.

During this press conference, CAC Executive Director, Elaine Stolte, Senator John Cornyn, Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas, and Executive Director of Crime Stoppers of Houston, Katherine Cabaniss spoke about different aspects of the Back to School, Back to Safety Initiative. Handouts were provided by The Children's Assessment Center listing different ways parents can help protect their children.



Senator John Cornyn delivered comments about the importance of protecting and caring for children, our most helpless members of society.



Sheriff Tommy Thomas, long-time supporter of The Children's Assessment Center, delivered comments regarding Back to School, Back to Safety Initiative.

Hello Everyone,



On Wednesday, August 8, 2007, The Children's Assessment Center and Crime Stoppers of Houston launched their second joint initiative of the year aimed at keeping Harris County's children safe. Our Back to School, Back to Safety Campaign was announced during a press conference at The Children's Assessment Center. True child advocates, Senator John Cornyn and Harris County Sheriff Tommy

Thomas were honored guests and provided comments on keeping children safe and the need for our community to work together while doing so.

The Back to School, Back to Safety Campaign was a month long initiative to help raise awareness regarding the issue of child abuse. Crime Stoppers of Houston focused on protecting our children as they went back to school, by assisting in the arrest of wanted felons who have committed crimes against children, including those who have failed to register as sex offenders. Through community response via the Crime Stoppers TIPS line and the reward program, many of these child predators were caught and brought to justice.



Senator John Cornyn visits The CAC during the Back to School, Back to Safety press conference at The CAC.

During this campaign, The Children's Assessment Center focused on the children of Harris County and our prevention efforts. We offered tips on child safety while traveling to and from school, staying home alone after school and especially while online doing homework or chatting with a friend. Together, Crime Stoppers of Houston and The Children's Assessment Center joined forces to continue to keep our children safe.

Thank you Senator Cornyn and Sheriff Tommy Thomas for delivering our prevention message and helping us raise awareness regarding the issue of child abuse so that together, we can continue to protect our children.

Take care,
Elaine Stolte, Executive Director
elaine.stolte@cac.hctx.net



Joe and Lauren Byars and other HOIST committee members present CAC Director of Development, Susan Williams, with their gift.

2007 Houston Oilman's Invitational Shooting Tournament

H.O.I.S.T.

Ready... Aim...

For eleven years, the members of the Houston Oilman's Invitational Shooting Tournament (H.O.I.S.T.) have generously supported the children and families receiving services at The Children's Assessment Center.

The H.O.I.S.T. tournament is Houston's premier oilfield shooting tournament. In addition to two full days of competitive comradeship, picture perfect weather and great eats, this year's donation to The CAC of \$55,000 brought H.O.I.S.T.'s total contributions to over \$465,000. When Susan Williams, CAC Director of Development, hinted at Joe Byars that next year we could reach the half million dollar mark, he declared that his goal is to reach \$1 million!! Susan happily announced Joe's declaration to all during the awards program.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Lauren & Joe Byars, the original "brain children" behind the tournament, and to the H.O.I.S.T. board of directors and host committee for their hard work, dedication and unending heart for the young victims of sexual abuse.

...Raise Money!!

CAC Children Savor the *Camp Cullen Experience*

Sponsored by ConocoPhillips

This July, The Children's Assessment Center sent 50 children to summer camp. The children attended a week long session at YMCA Camp Cullen in Trinity, TX. Each child enjoyed camping activities such as hiking, crafts, horseback riding, ropes challenge course, swimming, canoeing and water sports. In preparation to send the kids to camp, many volunteers donated their time to prepare all of their camping equipment. The children were all very excited and nervous when the buses arrived at The Children's Assessment Center. However, once they arrived at Camp Cullen the children were no longer nervous, just excited to get involved in the many camp activities. The staff at Camp Cullen did an excellent job in catering to all the needs of our children. Michelle Rose, Bilingual Clinical Social Worker at The Children's Assessment Center, was one of the staff members who accompanied the children to camp. When asked



The CAC campers load the bus for an adventurous week at Camp Cullen.



CAC staff members Sharyn Malatok and Dr. Bill Menchaca were some of the many volunteers that donated their time to help get the kids off to camp.

about the camp experience she said, "The kids had a lot of fun and I noticed a huge change in them while there. The kids were in a positive, comfortable environment. I think the trip was a success because it offered the children an opportunity to experience something new and to take the lessons they learned at camp and apply it to their everyday lives." Niki Saunders, Camp Cullen Director, said, "I know that it was a very rewarding experience for the Cullen counselors to have the opportunity to make such a difference in the life of a child. We get feedback from a lot of our parents with what a great time their children had at camp, but the smiles and the tears of The CAC campers meant the world to my staff." When it was time to leave Camp Cullen, the children were happy to be home but they all said they had a great time and look forward to going to camp again. Due to the combined efforts from volunteers, Children's Assessment Center staff and Camp Cullen staff, we had another successful camp experience.



6th Annual ConocoPhillips Back to School Party

The Children's Assessment Center celebrates children going back to school each August. The 6th Annual ConocoPhillips Back to School Party was held on August 22nd at The CAC. This year, participants played bingo, had caricatures drawn of them, ate tasty treats from Whole Foods, had balloon animals made by Katie Mae the Clown, among other fun activities. A big thank you to the ConocoPhillips volunteers for not only taking their time to make the party a success but also in helping over 200 children receive a backpack full of school supplies to start their year off right.



ConocoPhillips volunteers joined CAC staff in making the 6th Annual Back to School Party a great success.

8th Annual

Spirit of Spring Luncheon & Celebrity Fashion Show

April 27, 2007, at the Westin Galleria Grand Ballroom proved to be a happening place for the 8th Annual Spirit of Spring Luncheon & Celebrity Fashion Show. Much kudos goes to amazing event chairs, Lucinda Loya and Elizabeth Petersen who spent countless hours of hard work and creative brainstorming in putting their mark on this hot spring event! The day began as guests sipped their bottomless bubbly in a beautifully adorned foyer. Decoration chair, Kimberly Delape, added the finishing touches with delightful garden accoutrements and fanciful butterflies flitting about. Auction chair extraordinaire, Traci Lee, ensured that perusing guests had plenty of desirable silent auction and raffle items to try their luck at...not to mention the amazing swag bags that were a huge hit which were sold out in less than an hour!

Disco music added to the ambiance while 30 celebrity models showed off their threads to over 450 energetic supporters and guests. Celebrity models from Houston's television, radio and print medias modeled fashions from Gayla Bentley, Tootsies and Lucho. Tootsies' professional models added to the pucci-esque mood in their neon afros while frocked in their 70s inspired designer fashions. CAC Board Members, Yolanda Green and Roy Marsh pulled double duty as celebrity models. Deborah Duncan, Mistress of Ceremonies, kept the crowd in stitches with her charm and wit while at times assisting Judge Eric Andell, presiding auctioneer, who was doing a fine job of upping the live auction bids! Guest Speaker, Erin Merry, reminded everyone that April was Child Abuse Prevention Month while giving a compelling speech about her abuse and how a child advocacy center helped her and her family recover. On behalf of The CAC, Elaine Stolte, Executive Director, saluted Spirit of Spring honoree, Alicia Smith for her generosity and commitment to the children served by The CAC. This eighth annual event turned out to be the best ever with revenue proceeds exceeding \$191,000. WOW!! Special thanks goes to premier sponsor Leslie Alexander and the Houston Rockets as well as Bailey Banks & Biddle, John P. McGovern Foundation, Alicia Smith & Innovative

Legal Solutions, The Bagwell Foundation, Amy & James Lee/

John H. Lee Foundation,

Lucinda & Javier Loya,

Elizabeth & Gary

Petersen and to all

the other wonderful and generous sponsors who made this a landmark event.



Mistress of Ceremonies,
Deborah Duncan



Lucinda Loya, Alicia Smith
and Elizabeth Petersen



Celebrity Model, Mia Gradney,
from Houston's very own CW39



CAC Foundation Board
President, Sylvia Robertson Brauer
and Jeannie Caltado



Spirit of Spring





Elaine Stolte presents the Honorable Robert Eckels with 2007 Humanitarian Award.

4th

Annual Cherish The Child Awards Reception & Presentation of 2007 Humanitarian Awards

April 18, 2007, The Children's Assessment Center was honored to present the 2007 Humanitarian Awards to the following: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Stanford Group Company and The Honorable Robert Eckels. The evening and program were filled with fine music and fine foods. Special thanks go to the generous event sponsors bistro moderne, Paula Fridkin Designs, Chef John Salazar, Lucho, Texas Tropical Plants, Inc. and Fleming's.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas has been a supporter of The Children's Assessment Center for over five years. These sponsorships have included title sponsorships, grants for children's programs and most recently a grant to create the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas Training and Conference Library for Medical Professionals. We are truly proud to

count Blue Cross Blue Shield as one of our valued community partners.

Stanford Group Company believes that at the heart of every great organization is simply, a heart. It is apparent that within the Houston community, Stanford strives daily to achieve a higher standard. Not solely in the caliber of service or innovative products that they provide but also their standard and level of commitment to strengthen each and every community they serve. We salute CAC Board Member, Jay Comeaux and Stanford Group Company for their heart and commitment to our children and our community.



CAC Foundation Board Member, Troy Manchac, presents Blue Cross Blue Shield Representative with 2007 Humanitarian Award.

The Honorable Robert Eckels, serving as Harris County Judge for 12 years, built a culture of leadership which embraced innovation and opportunity. Through his vision, Harris County became a national model for preparedness and response to emergency situations, be they natural or man-made. The nation and the world watched as Judge Eckels coordinated and managed the relief effort for the victims and evacuees of both Hurricane Katrina and Rita. The Children's Assessment Center is grateful for his support for abused children and his leadership and guidance with our public/private partnership.

On behalf of our children, we express our sincerest appreciation to all who support The Children's Assessment Center through their time, talents, resources and gifts.



Stanford Group Company honored during 4th Annual Cherish The Child Awards Reception & Presentation of 2007 Humanitarian Awards

CAC Foundation Board Members Honored with Artwork from Children of The CAC

On November 14, 2007, CAC Foundation Board Members, Rachel Capote Bristow, Chester Jones and Yolanda Green were honored for their time, dedication and support to The CAC Foundation Board of Directors. As a token of appreciation, each were given a framed piece of artwork created by the children of The CAC.





International Guests from the Republic of Georgia tour The CAC with Executive Director, Elaine Stolte.

Welcome Visitors of The CAC

Recently, The Children's Assessment Center was honored to host visitors from the Las Vegas CAC as well as international visitors from The Republic of Georgia. On April 13, 2007, six individuals from the Las Vegas CAC spent the day touring The CAC and meeting with multidisciplinary staff members to learn about our collaborative team approach. Following a tour of The CAC, the individuals met with staff from the Forensic Services Division. This was followed by a working lunch where our visitors were greeted by other partner agency staff members of The CAC. After introductions, representatives from The CAC announced their positions and gave brief descriptions of their roles. Finally, the visiting individuals were paired up with their counterparts from The CAC. TDFPS Program Director, Doris Thomas-Buckler, Chief Prosecutor of the Harris County Child Abuse Division, Denise Oncken, Dr. Michelle Lyn of Baylor College of Medicine, Executive Director of The CAC, Elaine Stolte, and Assistant Director of The CAC, Kathy Wells shared their unique responsibilities in helping treat sexually abused children with a compassionate and coordinated approach.

On May 17, 2007, The CAC was extremely honored to host international guests from The Republic of Georgia. On behalf of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Program, Houston was the host of a delegation from the Republic of Georgia, traveling under the program title, "Monitoring Child Welfare Services."

The delegation visiting The Children's Assessment Center was composed of six individuals representing the Georgian government and key non-governmental organizations. With the group's experience and interests, the U.S. Institute of International Education believed this group would greatly benefit from an opportunity to visit The Children's Assessment Center in Houston, TX.

Visitors are always welcome at The CAC. It is because of guests that we are able to spread awareness of childhood sexual abuse throughout the world.

9th Annual Protecting Texas Children Conference

The Children's Assessment Center held the 9th Annual Protecting Texas Children Conference on October 1 - October 3, 2007, at the Renaissance Hotel in Houston, TX. The conference proved to be a great success with approximately 300 attendees from all over the United States, including attendees from Hawaii and British Columbia.



Elaine Stolte presents luncheon speaker, Judge Mike Schneider, with a gift of appreciation from The CAC.

The conference provided workshops for the multi-disciplinary team professional involved in law enforcement investigation, child fatality review, treatment and prevention of child abuse. Conference attendees included child abuse multidisciplinary representatives from various disciplines such as law enforcement, children's protective services, child advocacy centers, social work, public health, forensic pediatricians and nurses, medical examiners, district attorney's

offices and child fatality review team members.

Highlighted speakers at the 9th Annual Protecting Texas Children Conference included: Carole Jenny, MD, MBA, FAAP, a Professor of Pediatrics at Brown Medical School in Providence, Rhode Island, and the Director of the Child Protection Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital; and Sharon Cooper, MD, FAAP, an adjunct Professor of Pediatrics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Medicine, and the Executive Director of Developmental & Forensic Pediatrics, P.A., a consulting firm, which provides clinical care for children with disabilities or who are victims of child maltreatment. Dr. Carole Jenny covered the topic of child medical abuse and Dr. Cooper spoke about "Sexual Exploitation - Why Children Don't Tell."

Special thanks goes to The Children's Assessment Center staff members along with a collaborative team from Texas State Child Fatality Review Team Committee- Department of State Health Services, Harris County District Attorney's Office, Texas Children's Hospital, Harris County Child Abuse Task Force and The United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas for making the 9th Annual Protecting Texas Children Conference a HUGE success. We look forward to planning the 10th Annual Protecting Texas Children Conference in 2008.



Kathy Wells, Elaine Stolte, Yolanda Green and Elizabeth Hanlon enjoy the wonderful weather and the excitement of the 15th Annual Van Chancellor Golf Classic.

15th Annual Van Chancellor Golf Classic



The Children's Assessment Center

CONGRATULATES

Coach Van Chancellor

2007 INDUCTEE TO THE

**Naismith Memorial Basketball
Hall of Fame**



Coach Van Chancellor and CAC Foundation Board Member, Chester Jones at The 15th Annual Van Chancellor Golf Classic.

Once again Coach Van Chancellor welcomed over 200 golfers and supporters to the annual golf tournament that bears his name. Coach Chancellor, joined by his close friend Lea DeMontrond and CAC Board Member Brady Crosswell, proved to be stellar advocates for the children of Harris County. The 15th Annual Van Chancellor Golf Classic was held at Wildcat Golf Club for the third year. Premier sponsor Leslie L. Alexander and the Houston Rockets lead the day with their generous title sponsorship of the event. Other sponsors included: Allison & Michael Brandt, Charlotte & Chester Jones, Sabra & Troy Manchac, Laurie & Christopher DeClaire, Mary Austin Moody, Restoration Cleaners, Ziegler Cooper Architects, Z Private Holdings, The Tellepsen Family, Ley Wilson Development, CrossCap Mangement, Amegy Bank, Oppenheimer & Company, MOD, The Hunton Group and Mrs. O.H. Crosswell. With this spectacular line up it's no wonder the event was a success.

Kona Grill provided lunch and Aramark US Offshore capped the day with a delicious Cajun feast. Other in-kind donors included Silver Eagle Distributors, Continental Airlines, Texas Crystal Water Company, The CW39, Southwest Airlines, Coca Cola and Patron Spirits. Highlights of the day included a send off by a couple of Houston Rockets Power Dancers and a raffle that included over \$13,000 in electronics including HD TVs, digital cameras, laptops and much more.

Cheers to all who supported this event with their time, talent and resources and many, many, thanks to the invaluable volunteers... as we all know, Volunteers Give the Time of Their Lives!!



Elaine Stolte and Susan Williams presented Brady Crosswell and Lea DeMontrond with framed artwork from children of The CAC as a token of appreciation for all the hard work in putting this event together.

CAC staff member, Susan Odhiambo and volunteer provided hospitality to our golfers throughout the day.



CAC Foundation Board Member, Christopher DeClaire at The 15th Annual Van Chancellor Golf Classic.



Aloha Golf

Child Abuse Prevention Month at The Children's Assessment Center



CAC staff members and Pasadena I.S.D. Police Officer, Matt Gray, travel to Pasadena Memorial High School as part of "Empowering Children to Protect Themselves" Program.

The Children's Assessment Center and Crime Stoppers of Houston kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month with a press conference on April 2, 2007. The press conference announced a joint effort to capture child predators that had failed to register as sex offenders or failed to comply with their probationary requirements after being convicted of a sexual offense against a minor. During the entire month of April, Crime Stoppers of Houston highlighted a different sex offender each day on their web site in an effort to raise public awareness of child abuse. Additionally, The Children's Assessment Center reached out to the community for the second consecutive year with the "Empowering Children to Protect Themselves" Program sponsored by Stanford Group Company. This year's program focused on a very important topic in today's society of fast growing computer technology, "Online Predators."

The Children's Assessment Center staff and partner agency staff members traveled to Pasadena Memorial High School on April 20, 2007, to provide child abuse prevention education to interested families and their children. The presentation was very well received by the community, drawing a crowd of approximately 60 people on a Friday evening. WOW! The presentation concluded with many questions and requests for additional trainings on the subject.

On April 30, 2007, CAC staff and partner agency staff members from the FBI traveled to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas to provide similar training to members of the corporate sector of Harris County. While at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, four trainings were conducted allowing all employees the opportunity to attend. Again the trainings were well received and brought forth many questions by the audience.

Finally, CAC Board Member, Ramon Manning and his wife, Karen, hosted a cocktail reception at their home to salute The Children's Assessment Center and to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month. Attendees included many of Ramon and Karen's friends and CAC staff members. During the reception a check was presented to The Children's Assessment Center in the amount of \$10,000. It is because of support and donations like this that The CAC continues to be able to provide enhanced services to the sexually abused children of Harris County.

April turned out to be a very busy month for The Children's Assessment Center. We feel very fortunate that we were able to spread awareness of childhood sexual abuse to individuals in many different forums of Harris County. We learned a great deal about the educational needs of the community as they pertain to child abuse prevention.



Ramon and Karen Manning presented CAC staff with a donation in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Please Take Note!

Upcoming events for 2008

- **9th Annual Spirit of Spring Luncheon and Celebrity Fashion Show**
April 3rd
- **Child Abuse Prevention Month Program and Hoops Contest**
April TBA

\$100,000+

Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc.
State of Texas - Office of the Attorney General

\$50,000+

Baylor Methodist Community Health Fund
Harris County Community & Economic Development
Department
Houston Oilman's Invitational Shooting Tournament
State of Texas - Office of the Governor

\$25,000+

Child Care Council of Greater Houston
ConocoPhillips
The Stanford Group Company

\$15,000+

CW39 Cares for kids, a fund of the McCormick Tribune
Foundation

\$10,000+

The Ellwood Foundation
The George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
Target
Texas Oilman's Charity Invitational Fishing Tournament
Inc.

\$5,000+

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeLape
Mr. Lea DeMontrond
Ms. Lisa Erwin
Ray C. Fish Foundation
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Greater Houston Community Foundation
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MARSH USA Inc.
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The Methodist Hospital
Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center
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The Hunton Group
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The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast
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Ziegler Cooper Architects
Mr. Harvey Zinn, Jr.

\$500 - \$999

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CenterPoint Energy

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Elaine Stolte presented Director's Appreciation Awards to CAC
staff, Claudia Mullin and Alberta Torres. This annual award is
given yearly to those who go above and beyond their daily work
duties. Congratulations Ladies! It is well deserved.



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